



FRIDAY, JANUARY 16, 2026 ~ CLUB MEETING

The meeting was called to order by President Ted Gross at 12:15.

The Pledge was led by Jim Fabbrini.

The Four Way Pact was led by Jeff Miller

The Invocation was given by Jack Lucas.

This was the second of our January lunches being held at Bella Napoli while Chandler's is undergoing construction.

GUESTS

Our only guest today was Matt Galloway of the Village of Hoffman Estates. He is a Navy veteran and a prospective member.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- Glenn reminded us that the Classic is March 7th and to **keep selling!**
- Jeff S. read some of the thank-you letters received from the POC's three "adopted" families, and thanked Nancy and all the "elves" for their hard work shopping and wrapping for approximately 80 gifts.
- Jeff S. also mentioned that the Barn will be somewhat light on volunteers next month so contact Chris if you are interested.
- Jim F. is gearing up for RYLA including working with Hoffman Estates HS and Schaumburg HS to expand the number of participants.
- Jim F. also teased us with the upcoming March Madness pool. More info to come.
- Gene noted that space is being held for us at Dave & Buster's in Schaumburg for a Bears viewing party, this Sunday at 5:00 p.m. A headcount of 15 is required, everybody is on their own for food & drink.
- Gene announced that 13 tickets are available for "All Shook Up" on January 31st. Let him know if you are interested in attending.
- Linda asked that if anyone has an event to announce, that they share the info with her so she can further publicize it.
- George presented Nancy Redmond with a Paul Harris +7 pin, made possible through a points donation from Rosemary Justen.

HAPPY DOLLARS

\$ Rachel was \$10 happy after attending last Saturday's Bears game and happy they are still alive. She relayed thanks from a recent "What's in the Box" contest recipient of Bulls tickets.

\$ Nancy was \$10 happy to have heard from her grandson in Arizona who is looking into joining a local Rotary Club there.

\$ Eileen was \$5 happy to thank the crew that shopped and wrapped for the Adopt-a-Family project.

\$ Allen was happy that his law firm was enjoying some new signage from Jeff Miller's company. Also, he appreciated that Jim Fabbrini provided flowers to a recent event.

\$ Bill was \$5 happy to be back from a nice vacation in Costa Rica.

\$ Debbie was \$10 happy to be back from a Mexico vacation related to last year's Classic. To those concerned about her employment status, she noted that she does have a severance package. She thanked Jeanne Stoner for help with her job search and is looking for networking opportunities, particularly in the Healthcare arena.

\$ Pat was \$5 happy to thank the medical professionals who supported her husband's recovery from a recent medical challenge.

\$ Linda was \$5 happy that Chris was able to help her with a recent car repair.

\$ Gene was happy about 1.) the upcoming Bears watch party, and 2.) that Bailey will soon begin filming a short film that she has written.

\$ Darrel was happy that a recent health scare had a happy outcome.

\$ Ted was happy that his daughter's braces are off and fully paid for.

FUN & FROLIC

Fine master Allen Gabe was hard at work after missing last week's lunch. Fines were earned by:

- Anyone who tried to enter Bella Napoli through the locked door.
- Anyone not wearing their Rotary badge.
- Anyone not wearing their Rotary pin.
- Anyone not wearing Rotary attire.
- Anyone wearing Bears attire, as this is a Rotary meeting, not a Bears watch party.
- Anyone who was late to the meeting.
- Anyone sitting at a table with no guests.
- Anyone seated at a table with no women.
- Anyone who has gotten engaged in the last 6 months.
- Anyone who has not yet turned in any tickets for the Classic.
- Anyone with a coat hanging off the back of their chair.
- George and Brian for interrupting the Fine Master.
- Jim F. and Jeff M. for their businesses being advertised, even though it seemed that the Fine Master had done the advertising in a possible conflict of interest.
- Darrel for talking during the reading of the Adopt-a-Family thank you letters.
- Jeff S. for mentioning / "bragging" that he and Jeanne will be out of town in February.
- Jeanne S. for putting up with her husband.
- Gene for being late to his own Classic meeting.

PROGRAM

It was a “Club Assembly” day – no guest speaker.

Ted noted that Rosemary Justen had resigned, for personal reasons. Ted also mentioned that Mike Olach had been removed from the membership rolls, as the club has been unable to establish contact with him for 18 months.

There was discussion about the issue of some members not receiving ClubRunner emails. After a fair amount of time investigating this issue, it was decided that it would be best if the affected individuals spoke directly to ClubRunner support. Ted will contact those members on next steps.

The Queen of Hearts replacement will be coming when we return to Chandler’s in February.

There was a minor glitch when Ted handed the billing over to Diane. It has been corrected and the November and December bills will be coming soon.

Ted assured us that the club’s operating budget was in fine shape – plenty of money in the bank. There is a detailed financial presentation coming during the January 30th lunch meeting.

The main topic of the Club Assembly: what to do about lunch generally and Chandler’s specifically.

This was a lengthy discussion. More than a dozen members offered their opinions, and I will try to summarize the discussion.

- Ted offered some background. As we know, we retired “mandatory attendance” at luncheons and changed all members’ dues to \$50/month. The \$600 annual membership fee is competitive vs. other clubs, yet still does not cover the full cost to support a member.
- The issue at hand is that some members cannot eat the lunch due to legitimate dietary issues, and they do not want to pay for it. Also, more recently, some members don’t like what is being offered, and would prefer to decline the meal and not be charged. The latter issue is trending in the wrong direction and that is not sustainable; a decision needs to be made.
- On the specific issue above, the Board will make the decision, informed by today’s club discussion, and that decision will remain in effect for the rest of the fiscal year.
- The debate then turned to how we might handle lunch in the future. Clearly there was nobody making a passionate defense of the quality of the weekly lunch at Chandler’s. However, there were many comments about the positives at Chandler’s and the difficulties we may find if we form a committee and try to find an alternative:
 1. Chandler’s charges us \$22.50 per meal. They currently do not enforce the minimum attendance in the contract.
 2. They let us store stuff in the restaurant.
 3. They let us show up early for meetings and use their space.
 4. During the winter (no golfers) they open up on Friday afternoon just for us.

5. They give us a bigger room when we expect a large crowd. Bella Napoli, for example, doesn't have a bigger room to offer.
 6. They guarantee us space during the holiday season when other places won't.
 7. They have shown some flexibility as they try to address our concerns
 8. Their service is pretty good.
- A number of members were involved in the last transition (Poplar Creek to Chandler's), and a few members currently organize events in the Schaumburg / Hoffman Estates area. Their sentiment was clear – good luck if you think you are going to find a restaurant that will meet our needs for \$22.50 per meal.
 - It was noted that Chandler's **can** do better on food quality. We have seen their buffet; we have ordered off the full menu (once). Part of the problem is we get what we pay for at \$22.50. And any arrangement has to work for the restaurant. There are a number of options that can and are being explored, and Chandler's new catering manager is working with us.
 - There was some support to allow those with dietary restrictions not to pay for lunch. Also, a new issue was raised – those working during the meeting (i.e., on Classic tickets) don't have time to eat the lunch. There was some agreement that they also shouldn't pay. As noted earlier, the Board will render a decision on that.
 - A couple of members expressed their opinion that it's not about the food – we need a meeting space to do what we do, and we should focus on that and worry less about the food.

The discussion was closed at that point, as the meeting had already run long.

Darrel led the 4 Way Test, and Ted adjourned the meeting.